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WHEN SHOULD FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS CEASE OPERATION

DES MOINES, IOWA (June 13, 2008) – The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) reminds restaurants that they must cease operation if the follow flooding or severe weather-related conditions occur:

- They have had flood waters in their establishment
- They have been without power for more than 2 hours
- They have lost water service
- They have lost sewer service

If closed for one of these reasons, the food establishment operator must contact the regulatory authority (either the DIA's Food and Consumer Safety Bureau or the local health department which issued the food establishment license) to determine whether an inspection is required before reopening.

For additional information on how to prepare to reopen a food establishment, click on the link to the "Emergency Handbook for Food Managers" on the DIA website at www.dia.iowa.gov.

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When Should Restaurants Close